

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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TAGS: AORG, UNGA, UNEP

SUBJ: ECOSOC PROGRAM AND POLICY COORDINATION COMMITTEE (IHHSF)

REF: (A) STATE 258520 (B) USUN 5292 (C) USUN 5221

1. REQUEST DEPARTMENT REEXAMINE INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED REF(A)
FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH KENYAN AND JAMAICAN DELS WE HAVE BEEN ADAMANT IN OUR INSISTENCE THAT BEFORE FULL POLITICAL DECISION ON RATIONALIZATION ISSUE CAN BE FINALIZED THERE CANNOT BE ANY REAL MOVE TOWARD TURNING IHHSF INTO A REAL FUNCTIONING ENTITY, OTHER THAN ITS OFFICIAL CREATION AND RECRUITMENT OF A SMALL NUCLEUS STAFF TO DEVELOP PROGRAM AND PLAN OF ACTION. WE ARE REASONABLY SATISFIED, BASED ON ARGUMENTS PRESENTED PARA 2 REF(B), THAT IHHSF WILL STAY IN A LOW PROFILE POSITION UNTIL RATIONALIZATION DECISION AGREED TO, AND THUS WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BARGE AHEAD WITH POSSIBLE RESULT THAT ITS ACTIVITIES WILL DUPLICATE THOSE OF CENTER FOR HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING.

B. WE HAVE SOUGHT AND RECEIVED COMMITMENT FROM KENYANS AND
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JAMAICANS THAT A FINAL DECISION ON RATIONALIZATION WILL BE

STARTED AT UNEP GC III AND FINALIZED AT ECOSOC.

C. OUR PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR ECOSOC RES SUBMITTED DEPARTMENT REF(B) IS, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE NEAREST THING TO A "FREEZE" WE CAN GET, BEARING IN MIND THAT THERE IS NO SUPPORT IN ANY QUARTER TO POSTPONE A FINAL DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF IHHSF AT THIS SESSION OF THE UNGA.

D. ALMOST ALL THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE CURRENT DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE WERE NOT AT NAIROBI WHEN RATIONALIZATION UNDERSTANDING WAS REACHED; THUS, THE PRESSURES FOR RATIONALIZATION ARE NOT AS FIRM HERE AS THEY WERE IN NAIROBI AND INDEED MUCH OF OUR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN EDUCATIONAL.

E. OUR PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR ECOSOC RES WOULD RESULT IN THE IMMEDIATE TRANSFER OF APPROXIMATELY 18-20 PERCENT OF THE PERSONNEL IN THE CENTER FOR HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING TO THE IHHSF (THIS PERCENTAGE REFLECTS TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS RELATED TO "HOUSING POLICY" AS WELL AS "HOUSING FINANCE").

F. OUR LANGUAGE ALSO ELIMINATES THE ROLE IN RESOLVING THE RATIONALIZATION ISSUE FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL CALLED FOR IN THE KENYAN/JAMAICAN DRAFT ECOSOC RESOLUTION. ELIMINATION OF SYG IN RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM LEAVES FINAL DECISION REGARDING RATIONALIZATION TO UNEP GC-III AND ECOSOC, WHICH WE SEE AS A DISTINCT ADVANTAGE.

G. THE DELAY IN RESOLVING RATIONALIZATION ISSUE REFLECTED IN OUR PROPOSED LANGUAGE SHOULD GIVE US MORE TIME TO CONSULT INTERESTED CAPITOLS AND BUILD ON THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS WE HAVE BEGUN, AS WELL AS GET THOSE PEOPLE WHO PARTICIPATED IN NAIROBI UNDERSTANDING BACK ON BOARD.

H. FINALLY, THE FULL IMPACT OF A NEGATIVE US VOTE, SHOULD IT BE NECESSARY, CAN BE FELT AT UNEP GC-III AND ECOSOC AS WELL AS IN GA. THE IMPACT OF A NEGATIVE VOTE IN THESE FORA WOULD BE LESS LIKELY TO CARRY WITH IT CHARGES OF "US MANEUVERING", SINCE US SUPPORT OF A MOVE FOR MORE TIME FOR CONSIDERATION CANNOT BE HELPED BUT BE LOOKED UPON AS REASONABLE, AS WELL AS CREATE IMAGE THAT US IS BARGAINING IN GOOD FAITH.
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THIS WOULD BE ESPECIALLY TRUE OF THE KENYANS AND JAMAICANS, WHOSE SUPPORT IS NEEDED TO WARD OFF STANDPAT APPROACH OF FOR EXAMPLE FRENCH AND SOVIETS; BUT ALSO OF OTHERS WHO SEE US MOVE AS DEVIOUS OR ELSE ARE SO UNCERTAIN OF THE FACTS THAT THEY ARE CAUTIOUS OF "RADICAL" DECISIONS NOW.

2. IN SHORT, THE PLAN WE SET FORTH IN REF(B) CALLS FOR TIME PHASING OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS WITH ULTIMATE DECISION

BEING POSTPONED BUT WITH POSSIBILITY OF A NEGATIVE VOTE
STILL VERY MUCH IN FRONT OF US. AGAIN, REQUEST DEPARTMENT
RECONSIDER INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED REF(A).
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